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OPEN LETTER: Minister of Education regarding WiFi in Schools, October 14, 2010

Canada and Switzerland are taking different paths to provide Internet access to schools. Canada, is installing wireless technology using industrial strength WiFi systems. Switzerland is providing free fiber optics to schools for high-speed connectivity without exposure to microwave radiation. Why is Canada moving in one direction (wireless) and Switzerland in another (wired)? What does Switzerland know that Canada doesn't know?

I ask you to consider the following to minimize exposure of students and staff to microwave radiation:

A. Schools without WiFi:

1. Place a moratorium on WiFi installation in schools that have not yet had WiFi installed.
2. Consider using wired connections in these schools for Internet access (as is being done in Switzerland).

B. Schools with WiFi:

1. Limit use of WiFi to certain times and/or certain locations within the school.
2. Turn WiFi off when not in use (just as you do with lights and other equipment).
3. Disconnect WiFi in rooms that do not use computers.
4. Ensure there are WiFi-free zones in the school.
5. Allow students who do not want to use WiFi to have wired connections.
6. Investigate health complaints by both students and staff, and keep a record of these complaints.
7. Have microwave radiation measured in the school as soon as WiFi is installed (and preferably before it is installed) during peak use and especially at the desk of those students (teachers) who are complaining.
8. Conduct an internal (blind) study by turning WiFi off in the entire school to test whether the complaints are WiFi related.
9. Teach students how to use a hand-held WiFi device more "safely". Text instead of talk, read the User Manual and keep the smart phone, smart tablet at least 0.5 inches away from your body at all times. Do not place the laptop on your body.
10. For hand-held devices, download the material and view the content offline. Turn the WiFi (on the device) off as soon as the download is complete.

Please share the document, *A Tale of Two Countries*, and supporting material with your IT Department and your Legal Department for verification and advice.

Respectfully,

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